

CLAIMS

What is claimed and desired to be covered by Letters Patent is:

1. An article of furniture comprising:

a) a first seat unit which includes

(1) a first side having, in a use orientation, a bottom edge of the first side, a top edge of the first side, a front edge of the first side, a rear edge of the first side, a transverse axis of the first side extending between the front edge of the first side and the rear edge of the first side, a longitudinal axis of the first side extending between the bottom edge of the first side and the top edge of the first side, an inside surface and an outside surface,

(2) a second side spaced apart from the first side and having, in a use orientation, a bottom edge of the second side, a top edge of the second side, a front edge of the second side, a rear edge of the second side, a transverse axis of the second side extending between the front edge of the second side and the rear

- edge of the second side, a longitudinal axis of the second side extending between the bottom edge of the second side and the top edge of the second side, an inside surface and an outside surface,
- (3) a width direction extending between the first side and the second side,
 - (4) a first arm rest on the top edge of the first side,
 - (5) a second arm rest on the top edge of the second side,
 - (6) a first front foot on the bottom edge of the first side near the front edge of the first side,
 - (7) a second front foot on the bottom edge of the second side near the front edge of the second side,
 - (8) a first rear foot on the bottom edge of the first side near the rear edge of the first side,
 - (9) a second rear foot on the bottom edge of the second side near the rear edge of the second side,
 - (10) a back support element of said first seat unit

fixed to the rear edge of the first side of said first seat unit and to the rear edge of the second side of said first seat unit and extending from the rear edge of the first side of said first seat unit to the rear edge of the second side of said seat unit, the back element also extending in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the first side of said first seat unit, and

(11) a seat element of said first seat unit fixed to the inside surface of the first side of said first seat unit and to the inside surface of the second side of said seat unit and which extends from adjacent to the front edge of the first side of said first seat unit to adjacent to the rear edge of the first side of said first seat unit and adjacent to the back support element of said first seat unit, the seat element of said first seat unit being located between the top edge of the first side of said first seat unit and the bottom edge of the first side;

b) a second seat unit located adjacent to said first seat unit, said second seat unit sharing the second

side of said first seat unit as a common side with the outside surface of the second side of said first seat unit being an inside surface of the common side of said second seat unit, said second seat unit sharing the second front foot of said first seat unit as a common front foot, said second seat unit sharing the second rear foot of said first seat unit as a common rear foot, said second seat unit including

- (1) a third side spaced from the second side of said first seat unit in the direction of the width direction of said first seat unit and having, in a use orientation, a bottom edge of the third side, a top edge of the third side, a front edge of the third side, a rear edge of the third side, a transverse axis of the third side extending between the front edge of the third side and the rear edge of the third side, a longitudinal axis of the third side extending between the bottom edge of the third side and the top edge of the third side, an inside surface and an outside surface,
- (2) a back support element of said second seat unit fixed to the rear edge of the second side of

said first seat unit and to the rear edge of the third side of said second seat unit, the back element of said second seat unit also extending in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the second side of said first seat unit, the back support element of said second seat unit being co-planar with the back support element of said first seat unit, and

(3) a seat element of said second seat unit fixed to the outside surface of the second side of said first seat unit and fixed to the inside surface of the third side of said second seat unit and which extends from adjacent to the front edge of the second side of said first seat unit and adjacent to the front edge of the third side of said second seat unit to adjacent to the rear edge of the second side of said first seat unit and adjacent to the rear edge of the third side of said second seat unit and adjacent to the back support element of said second seat unit, the seat element of said second seat unit being located between the top edge of the second side of said first seat unit and the bottom edge of

the second side of said first seat unit, the seat element of said second seat unit being co-planar with the seat element of said first seat unit;

- c) said first seat unit and said second seat unit being coupled together via the common side and the common front foot and the common rear foot to be a single unit;
- d) a support surface on which said first and said second seat units rest;
- e) a first support foot unit connected to the first front foot of said first seat unit and which includes
 - (1) a base surface, and
 - (2) a body extending upward from the base surface of said first support foot in the use configuration;
- f) a second support foot connected to the second front foot of said first seat unit and which includes
 - (1) a base surface of said second support foot, and
 - (2) a body of said second support foot extending upward from the base surface of said second support foot in the use configuration;
- g) said second seat unit being connected to said

second support foot;

- h) an operating bar rotationally supported in the body of said first support foot and rotationally supported in the body of said second support foot and extending in the width direction of said first and second seat units, said operating bar having a first end located adjacent to the outside surface of the first side of said first seat unit and a longitudinal axis extending in the width direction of said first and said second seat units, said operating bar being rotatable about the longitudinal axis of said operating bar;
- I) the first and second sides of said first seat unit and the third side of said second seat unit being fixedly connected to said operating bar for rotational movement therewith;
- j) said first and second seat units moving as a single unit between a first orientation with the seat elements thereof oriented horizontally above said support surface and a second orientation having the seat units thereof oriented at an oblique angle to said support surface;
- k) an operating connection on the first end of said operating bar and having a plurality of teeth-

accommodating holes defined therein;

- 1) an operating key having teeth sized and shaped to engage the teeth-accommodating holes defined in said operating connection and a handle connected to the teeth of said operating key.
2. The article of furniture as described in claim 1 further including a third seat unit which shares the third side of said second seat unit and which is fixedly mounted on said operating bar for movement therewith.
3. The article of furniture as described in claim 2 further including a first rear foot support in the first rear foot of said first seat unit.
4. An article of furniture comprising:
 - a) a support surface;
 - b) a row of seat units having a plurality of side-by-side seat units supported on said support surface;
 - c) an operating bar fixedly connected to each seat unit of said plurality of seat units, said operating bar having a longitudinal axis and a first end having key-accommodating elements therein;

- d) an operating bar support bracket mounted on said support surface, said operating bar being rotationally mounted on said operating bar support bracket to be rotatable about the longitudinal axis of said operating bar;
- e) a key element sized and shaped to be accommodated in the key-accommodating elements of said operating bar to rotate said operating bar via said key element; and
- f) the seats units of said plurality of seat units being movable with said operating bar to move between a first orientation having a seat of each seat unit oriented parallel to said support surface and a second orientation having the seat of each seat unit oriented at an oblique angle to said support surface.